

From: Lynn Walton
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/15/02 5:59pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Honorable Judge Kollar-Kotelly,

I was very disappointed when I first heard the results of the settlement that the DOJ agreed to with regard to the Microsoft Antitrust case, because I believe that it does not really prevent Microsoft from continuing in the same unethical business practices that they have been found to have engaged in for years. I was likewise very pleased that at least nine of the states did not agree and continued to push for a settlement that, in my opinion, would more appropriately fit the charges for which Microsoft was found guilty.

I am a Software Developer in the Internet industry. At first, I was not in favor of the Anti-trust suit at all, feeling that Microsoft (or any successful company) shouldn't be punished for being successful. But even when I felt that way, I still believed that they engaged in unethical business practices regarding dealing with OEM's, etc. And for that I believed they should be tried and if found guilty punished in enough of a way that it would stop them from doing it in the future.

However, as I've studied both sides of the issues I have concluded that it isn't in the best interest of the people of the United States for Microsoft to continue to be allowed to maintain it's monopoly hold. Microsoft's patterns of behavior ultimately harm the consumer because they stifle competition from those who might otherwise make more reliable, quality products. Microsoft hasn't ceased in these harmful behaviors even when under the threat of the Anti-trust lawsuit. I do not believe they will change these patterns without a much stricter settlement that FORCES them to do so.

I hope you will find that the Proposed Final Judgement is NOT in the best interest of the people and will give more consideration to the settlement proposed by the remaining nine states. In fact, in many ways I think that Microsoft gets off so easy in the Proposed Final Judgement that they make the DOJ look like a JOKE because Microsoft's legal team out smarted them. Microsoft barely get's a slap on the wrist, they get to continue to use the same unfair business practices they always have, and they even gain some protection for their bad practices.

Thank you for your consideration,
Lynn Walton
Director of Internet Services
Franklin University
(These views do not necessarily represent those of my employer.)

